

Exhibit No. 3Date 4-6-09Bill No. HB 662

Good morning Senator Brown and members of the committee;

For the record my name is Rachel Romanelli

I am the person responsible for the information that is in front of you. The information in the front contains fact sheet statistical information from a Montana survey and then a fact sheet from the American Massage Therapy Association on massage industry research statistics nationally.

You will also see a letter of intent, pursuant to MCA 2-8-402 enacted in 2007 this is a requirement of any body or organization to write with direction of the MCA given sequence of questions to "shed light" on the reason why a profession should be licensed. Hence called the letter of intent.

In the later divider there are testimonial sheets so that if a person could not attend the hearing at least their testimony could be given to the committee. In the back pocket folder there is a package that contains the three schools in Montana and their massage therapy education.

I currently serve as the Government Relations Chair for the American Massage Therapy Association of Montana I have served in this position for five years

I Chair the Massage Therapy Government Relations Committee and have chaired this committee for 3 years.

The government relations committee that wrote this bill is a coalition of individuals made up of massage therapists and the national somatic practice organizations, they include:

American Massage Therapy Association-MT, Association Bodyworkers and Massage Professionals-MT, the Federation of Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Practice

Over the past months we have presented our bill draft to other occupational professions and negotiated language.

The intent of the House Bill 662 is to reestablish Massage Therapy licensure in Montana And to create a board of massage therapy to regulate the massage therapy profession

HB 662 re-establishes licensure....Massage Therapy licensure was in place for 14 years, from 1967 until July 1, 1981, when the Montana Legislature terminated the Board of Massage Therapists pursuant to the Sunset Law of 1977.

When the previous law, Title 37, Chapter 33, was officially repealed in 1983, there were fewer than 100 massage therapists practicing in Montana

Now 28 years later, there are 1,500 massage therapists in our mailing list with an estimated 2,000 massage therapists accounting for an estimated 500 , maybe more of those individuals that we do not have contact information for that are practicing in Montana.

This number 2000, is double and sometimes triple that of other various health care professionals who are currently licensed to practice their professions in our state, which speaks to the future ability to support a Massage Therapy Board.

When Montana had a massage therapy licensure there were only 12 US states including Montana that licensed massage therapists.

The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 42 states have regulated massage therapy:

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

Massage Therapy as a Profession/ AMTA 2009 Industry Fact Sheet

In 2005, massage therapy was projected to be a \$6 to \$11 billion a year industry.1

According to the U.S. Department of Labor employment for massage therapists is expected to increase 20 percent from 2006 to 2016, faster than average for all occupations.3

Between August 2007 and June 2008, a fifth of adult Americans (20 percent) had a massage at least once.4

More than half of massage therapists (69 percent) receive referrals from healthcare professionals.5

Massage therapists and consumers are in favor of integration of massage into healthcare.

Over half of adult Americans (60 percent) would like to see their insurance cover massage therapy.4

Ninety-six percent of massage therapists agree massage therapy should be considered part of the healthcare field.5

Definition:

Section 3 definition clearly defines what our scope of practice is. Massage therapists do use structured touch, pressure, positioning, active and passive movement within the anatomical range when in a massage session. We do refer to other health care providers if the client is presenting something that is out of our scope of practice

Section 3 also says what massage therapists do not do, we do not diagnose, manipulate or mobilize articulations of the body such as a chiropractor, we do not use tape to restrict joint movement.

Powers and Duties of the board:

An amendment you will see does now include the requirement for continuing education 12 hours every two years

History of changes from house executive action...

Friday March 27th in the house of business and labor we presented the bill and were told that we needed to change the transitional license section so that it did not put massage therapists out of business or economically disadvantage them. From that point further I spent time with those that had opposed the bill to draft language that we all were comfortable with. The house passed the bill draft that you see before you with the amended transitional licensure as now the initial license...grandfathering clause.

This grandfathering clause does not put any massage therapist out of business, allows the massage therapy board to oversee the massage therapists equally and is only open until July 2012, after which all persons entering into the profession will be required to comply with section 8, "qualifications for active licensure."

On March 27th with this section changed, the grandfathering clause brought our massage therapy profession together and for the first time in 25 years and unites our profession.

If massage therapists are not licensed in this legislative session, then the estimated 2000 persons that practice massage therapy will continue to do so without governance.

When you ask the Joe public if they think that massage therapists are licensed, they think that they are, and are appalled to know that in fact are not.

I will state again, HB 662 re establishes licensure. The massage therapy community has united and supports the language of HB 662 other occupational licenses and the public request licensure for massage therapists.

We request that you pass HB 662 so that we have standards for our profession now and that we do not need to wait for another legislative session to propose the same bill.

I strongly urge you, Please give a due pass to HB 662

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Romanelli
American Massage Therapy Association Montana Chapter
Government Relations Chair
3rd Vice President